

COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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State of the Union includes key county priorities

The National Association of Counties (NACo) responded to President Obama's State of the Union Address and vowed to work with the President and Congress to achieve shared priorities important to the nation's counties, including economic recovery and investing in transportation and infrastructure.

"Many of President Obama's domestic policy goals align with priorities county governments work to achieve every day," said NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii. "We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and leaders on Capitol Hill because federal decisions have a cascading effect on county governments and residents. We stand ready to strengthen counties' intergovernmental collaboration to benefit everyday Americans." NACo's Executive

Director Matt Chase concluded, "President Obama's address made it clear that federal policies matter to county governments and county governments matter to America. Every level of government must work together to shape policies that improve the quality of life for all Americans. Whether it's building and maintaining infrastructure, providing essential services or fostering conditions for economic growth, counties are on the front lines serving communities. NACo stands ready to work with the Administration and Congress to make America's communities healthier, safer, and more vibrant places to live and work." ~ [Click here to read the entire press release.](#)

Androscoggin Welcomes Five New County Commissioners



In compliance with the newly adopted county charter that became effective on January 1st, Androscoggin was redistricted to include a total of seven districts and therefore, has elected a total of seven county commissioners. Comm. Randall Greenwood, Comm. Beth Bell and Comm. Elaine Makas remain the veterans of the group. They welcome Comm. Ronald Chicoine, Comm. Matthew Roy, Comm. Alfreda Fournier, and Comm. Sally Christner. They, with Sheriff Eric Samson, Chief Deputy William Gagne, Register of Probate, Judge of Probate and District Attorney were sworn in at a ceremony at the Androscoggin County Courthouse by County Clerk Patricia Fournier on January 8th. The charter also states that a County Administrator shall be appointed, but that won't happen until April.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH
JANUARY 2015
StalkingAwarenessMonth.org

When a little extra attention turns creepy or even violent, where do we draw the line?

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence talks about stalking, what it looks like, how we talk about it and respond to it, and how it impacts people's lives. The definition of stalking recommended by the National Stalking Resource Center is "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear." But even with that definition, confusion and misinformation about this problem abounds. So they identified five key myths about stalking.

1. Stalkers stalk strangers
2. It's nothing serious
3. It's romantic or sexy
4. Cyber stalkers are all tech geniuses
5. It doesn't happen in Maine

According to Steven Edmondson Domestic Violence Investigator Sagadahoc County District Attorney's Office, "Stalking comes from a place deep inside a person where logic, common sense, fear of sanctions or an expectation of accountability cannot be reached thus making it as serious of an offense as one can imagine. The disruption of a victim's life and outright fear cannot be measured. We cannot take these cases lightly as perpetrators rely on both the victim's and the public's silence. We have to make noise to reach our goals. In order to achieve public reaction we first need public attention." ~ [Click here to test your knowledge about stalking.](#)



MCCA Annual General Membership Meeting

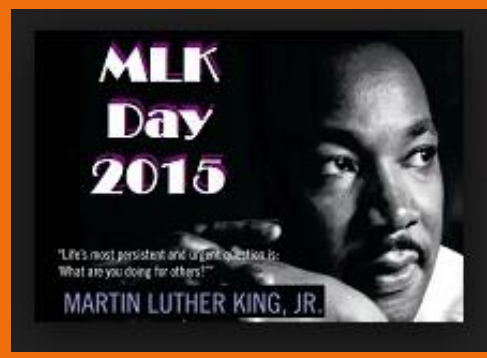
On January 14, 2015 MCCA held the annual general membership meeting at the Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta. This meeting was attended by county commissioners and association representatives from all over the state. Of particular importance, the slate for the 2015 Board of Directors was approved for both county commissioners and affiliate associations. The members of the 2014 Executive Committee, consisting of President Bill Blodgett, Vice President Peter Baldacci and Treasurer Tom Coward, were re-elected for a second term. The MCCA budget was amended and approved. And Aroostook Commissioner Paul Underwood was nominated and voted in as the new representative on the Board of Corrections in place of Commissioner Amy Fowler who recently resigned.



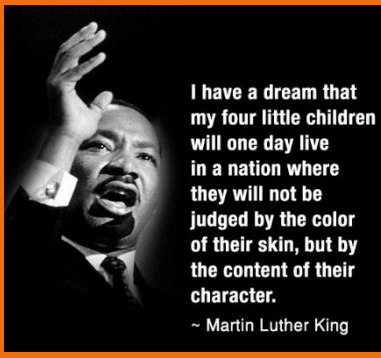
Franklin County Residents Invited to Police Academy

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office will host its second Citizens Police Academy in February, a six-week course that teaches residents about police work. Franklin County Sheriff Scott Nichols said his main objective in offering the class is to connect the community with county law enforcement. "It's about communication," said Nichols. "A lot of time people think we're this closed society when we're not." Over the course of the classes, the attendees will get to meet all members of the department and finish the class with a chance to ride along with a deputy on patrol. Nichols said that when county residents get a chance to become more familiar with the department, it helps dispel misconceptions about law enforcement and improve community relations.

~ [Read the full article by Kaitlin Schroeder here.](#)



Annual Breakfast at UMaine



~ Martin Luther King